

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for producing glass gobs, comprising:
a membrane body including a gas outlet surface
and an opposite surface, wherein the membrane body is
porous for permitting passage of compressed gas through
pores of the membrane body;
5 at least one channel, formed in the membrane
body and larger in cross section than the pores therein
for introduction of compressed gas into the membrane body
and passage of the compressed gas across the membrane
body;
10 the at least one channel is embedded in the
porous material of the membrane body and is positioned at
a distance from the outlet surface of the membrane body
such that air introduced through the channel may pass
15 through the membrane body and out the outlet surface.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the channels are
either parallel or at an acute angle to the outlet
surface passing through the membrane body.
3. The device of claim 1, further comprising an
outlet channel in the membrane body passing through the
membrane body and exiting a surface of the membrane body
and having a cross-section larger than that of the pores

of the membrane body for defining an outlet path for the compressed gas in the membrane body.

4. The device of claim 3, further comprising valves in the outlet channel for controlling the flow therethrough.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the membrane body is generally a disc having a diameter to thickness ratio in the range 1:1 to 10:1.

6. The device of claim 2, wherein the channels passing through the membrane body for compressed gas are located in the membrane body such that the distance between the channels and the outlet surface of the membrane body is less than half the thickness of the membrane body.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the membrane body opposite surface is opposite the outlet surface, and the channels for compressed gas passing through the membrane body are open channels which open toward the opposite surface of the membrane body.

8. The device of claim 3, wherein the outlet

channel is positioned at a location across the membrane body selected for reducing gas pressure above the outlet channel for controlling the manufacture of a glass gob suspended above the membrane body.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein the outlet surface is a horizontal upper surface.

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